

We claim:

1. Packaged fluid receptacles comprising:
a plurality of fluid receptacles arranged one next to the other to form a
5 composite structure having a top surface, bottom surface and end walls at a
first end and a second end and having a longitudinal axis which extends
through the end walls; and
a removable support which contacts at least the top surface, bottom
surface and end walls, the removable support including an attachment for
10 applying a force in a direction along the longitudinal axis.
2. Packaged article according to claim 1, wherein the removable
support comprises a web having adhesive on at least a portion of the web that
contacts the top surface of the composite structure to anchor the individual
15 fluid receptacles to the support.
3. Packaged article according to claim 2, wherein the web is paper
or a plastic film.
- 20 4. Packaged fluid receptacles according to claim 2, wherein the web
comprises a top and bottom portion, wherein the top portion contains the
adhesive that contacts the top surface of the composite structure.
- 25 5. Packaged fluid receptacles according to claim 4, wherein the top
portion contacts the end walls of the composite structure and the top portion
and bottom portion are joined at the bottom of the end walls at the first and
second ends.
6. Packaged fluid receptacles according to claim 5, wherein the
30 bottom portion of the web contains no adhesive.
7. Packaged fluid receptacles according to claim 6, wherein the web
further comprises a perforation in the vicinity of the joining of the top and

bottom portion at the second end to provide for separation of the top and bottom portion upon application of the force.

8. Packaged fluid receptacles according to claim 7, wherein the
5 attachment is located in the vicinity of the first end.

9. Packaged fluid receptacles according to claim 5, wherein at least
a portion of the bottom portion of the web has an adhesive to contact the
bottom surface of the composite structure.

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10. Packaged fluid receptacles according to claim 9, wherein the
bottom portion is divided into a first portion which extends from the first end to
the second end and a second portion that doubles back on the first portion
from the second end back to the first end, and wherein the adhesive is located
15 on the first portion.

11. Packaged fluid receptacles as claimed in claim 2, wherein the
receptacles are cuvettes for use in a clinical analyzer.

20 12. Packaged fluid receptacles as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
attachment is a tab capable of being pulled by hand.

13. Packaged fluid receptacles as claimed in claim 2, wherein the
attachment is a portion of the web that extends beyond the first end.

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14. Packaged fluid receptacles as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
cuvettes have windows for measuring an aspect of the contents of a cuvette by
a detector and the windows of the cuvettes are arranged to face one another.

30 15. Packaged cuvettes for use in a clinical analyzer comprising:
a plurality of cuvettes having windows for measuring an aspect of the
contents of the cuvettes and arranged such that the windows face each other

to form a composite structure having a top surface, bottom surface and end walls at a first end and a second end; and

5 a removable supporting web which contacts at least the top surface, bottom surface and end walls, the supporting web including a tab capable of being pulled by hand located in the vicinity of the first end for applying a force in a lengthwise direction relative to the web to remove the web upon application of a sufficient force.

10 16. Packaged cuvettes according to claim 15, wherein each cuvette has multiple reservoirs and windows arranged side-by-side and the openings of the reservoirs form the top surface of the composite structure and the windows of the first and last cuvette of the composite structure form the end walls.

15 17. Packaged cuvettes according to claim 16, wherein the removable supporting web comprises paper or a plastic film.

18. A method for inserting a plurality of cuvettes into a clinical analyzer comprising:

20 providing packaged cuvettes according to claim 15;
inserting the packaged cuvettes into a cuvette loading station of a clinical analyzer in a manner in which the tab remains accessible to application of a force;
securing the packaged cuvettes in the loading station;
applying a force to the tab in a direction toward the first end to peel back
25 the support from the cuvettes; and
removing the support to provide individual cuvettes.

30 19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the removable support comprises a web having a top and bottom portion, wherein the top portion contains an adhesive which contacts the top surface of the composite structure to anchor the individual cuvettes to the support and the bottom portion of the web contains no adhesive,

wherein the top portion contacts the end walls of the composite article and the top portion and bottom portion are joined at the bottom of the end walls at the first and second ends and the web has a perforation in the vicinity of the second end where the top and bottom portions of the web are joined, wherein

5 the method further comprises;

separating top and bottom portion of the web at the perforation;

applying a force to the tab to pull the bottom portion of the web toward the first end away from the bottom of the composite structure; and

10 further applying a force to the tab to peel back to top portion of the web away from the top of the composite structure in a direction toward the second end.

20. A method according to claim 18, wherein the removable support comprises a web having a top and bottom portion, the top portion containing an
15 adhesive which contacts the top surface of the composite structure to anchor the individual cuvettes to the support and the top portion contacts the end walls of the composite article, wherein

the bottom portion of the web is divided into a first portion which extends from the first end to the second end and a second portion that doubles back on
20 the first portion from the second end back to the first end, and wherein an adhesive is located on the first portion to contact the bottom surface of the composite structure, wherein

the top portion and bottom portion are joined at the bottom of the end walls at the first and second ends, and

25 the tab comprises a lower tab connected to the bottom portion of the web and an upper tab connected to the top portion of the web; wherein the method further comprises:

applying a force to the bottom tab to peel the bottom portion of the web toward the first end away from the bottom of the composite structure; and

30 further applying a force to the top or bottom tab to peel back to top portion of the web away from the top of the composite structure in a direction toward the second end.